

# Exposure Control

WAC 296-855-400

## Section Contents



### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To protect employees from exposure to ethylene oxide (EtO) by using feasible exposure controls and appropriate respirators**

### IMPORTANT:

- These sections apply when employee exposure monitoring results are above either of the following permissible exposure limits (PELs):
  - The 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA<sub>8</sub>) of 1 part per million (ppm)
  - or**
  - The 15-minute short-term exposure limit (STEL) of 5 ppm.

TITLE	PAGE
Exposure control plan WAC 296-855-40010 .....	400-2
Exposure controls WAC 296-855-40030 .....	400-4
Respirators WAC 296-855-40040 .....	400-5

# Exposure Control

WAC 296-855-400

## Rule

WAC 296-855-40010

### Exposure control plan

#### You must

- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan to reduce employee exposure to EtO below both  $TWA_8$  and the STEL by the use of feasible exposure controls. Include at least the following in your plan:
  - A schedule for periodic leak detection surveys
  - Make sure employee rotation isn't included as a method to control employee exposure.
- Establish a written plan for emergency situations for each work area where there is a possibility of an emergency from a release of EtO. The plan must include, at a minimum:
  - Emergency escape:
    - Procedures
    - Route assignments
  - Emergency evacuation plans and procedures to account for all employees after emergency evacuation has been completed
  - Procedures to be followed by employees who remain to operate critical plant operations before they evacuate
  - Requirements for the use of respiratory protection as required in WAC 296-855-40040
  - Rescue and medical duties for those employees who will perform them.
  - The preferred means of reporting fires and other emergencies
  - Names or regular job titles of persons or departments who can be contacted for further information or explanation of duties under the plan.

**-Continued-**

# Exposure Control

WAC 296-855-400

## Rule

WAC 296-855-40010

### Exposure Control Plan (Continued)

#### You must

- Establish an employee alarm system that meets the requirements of Employee Alarm Systems, WAC 296-800-31070 in the Safety and Health Core Rules.
  - The employee alarm system must be distinctive and recognizable as a signal to perform actions designated under the emergency response plan.
- Review your exposure control plan at least every 12 months and update as needed to reflect your current workplace conditions.
- Provide a copy of your exposure control plan to affected employees and their designated representatives, when they ask to review or copy it.



# Exposure Control

WAC 296-855-400

## Rule

WAC 296-855-40030

### Exposure controls

#### IMPORTANT:

- The use of an employee rotation schedule to control employee exposure to ethylene oxide (EtO) is prohibited.
- Respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE) aren't exposure controls.

#### You must

- Use feasible exposure controls to:
  - Reduce exposure to, or below, the permissible exposure limit (PELs)**or**
  - To reduce exposure to the lowest achievable level above the PELs.



#### Reference:

- Go to another chapter, Respiratory Hazards, Chapter 296-841 WAC for additional information on employee exposure controls.

# Exposure Control

WAC 296-855-400

## Rule

WAC 296-855-40040

### Respirators

#### IMPORTANT:

- The requirements in this section are in addition to the requirements found in another chapter, Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC.
- Medical evaluations meeting all requirements of WAC 296-855-30030, will fulfill the medical evaluation requirement found in another chapter, Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC.

#### You must

- Provide respirators and require that employees use them in circumstances where exposure is above either PEL, such as when:
  - Feasible exposure controls are being put in place.
  - You determine that exposure controls aren't feasible.
  - Feasible exposure controls do not reduce exposures to or below the PELs.
  - Employees are responding to emergencies.
- Ensure all respirator use is accompanied by eye protection either through the use of full-facepiece respirators, hoods, or chemical goggles.
- Establish a respirator program that meets the requirements of another chapter, Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC, and include the following additional requirement:
  - Limit selection of respirators to those with a full-facepiece or another type of respirator providing eye protection for EtO.



# Notes

---